



Twin Construction

Among your Birmingham clientele, what is the latest trend in home building and renovations you are seeing? We see a lot of people wanting to make old houses look new and new houses look old. In other words, people with new homes are adding a lot of character with elements such as reclaimed wood beams, barn doors, or old fireplace mantles. With older homes, the owners love the character they have but want to maximize functionality and space efficiency, so we've done a lot more built-in items: playroom storage, bunk beds, lofts, mudroom cubbies, window seats, banquettes and desk areas.

Name one innovation in your industry that you are most excited about this year? There are more readily available energy-efficient products that reduce the operating costs of a home. Our clients love choices like tankless water heaters, specialty roof decking, and HVAC furnace options.

What is the project you are most proud of to date? We're most proud of a house that fits the character and architecture of a community. We like for someone to be able to drive by and think it is a beautiful old home, not something new that doesn't fit in.

What is your favorite/least favorite trend? If we had a least favorite,

do you really think we'd tell you? No, in all seriousness, as long as it's structurally sound and will stand the test of time, we're excited to help clients achieve whatever makes them love their home. We don't have a cookie cutter style. We build custom homes to fit individual homeowners and their personal styles.

Name a trend from the past five years that you not only implemented for clients, but in your home as well. People

are interested in outdoor living spaces that truly function as an extension of their home—not just larger screen porches and patios, but more outdoor fireplaces, outdoor kitchens, and so forth. Probably everyone on our staff who has built or remodeled a home in the past few years has included some version of that in their plans.

Most cost effective update to one's home? An interior facelift/makeover, especially with help from a talented designer or decorator, is a great way to update without a big investment. Things like painting, updating lighting, a few well-chosen new soft goods—chairs, couches, drapery and even new throw pillows—can go a long way.

Update most worth waiting for? Gutting the kitchen to create an entirely re-envisioned space. One of the things we hear most from homeowners is they want their family to be able to gather all in one place without feeling like they're on top of each other. With good space planning, you can open up the space between kitchen and living room so it feels like a large, multipurpose living area.





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